

AZƏRBAYCAN RESPUBLİKASININ
ATƏT YANINDA
DAİMİ NÜMAYƏNDƏLİYİ



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
TO THE OSCE

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STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

The meeting of the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting 19-30 September, 2016

Right of reply; opening session

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan took note of the statements made by the Delegation of European Union, also on behalf of aligned countries and United States of America. Their content will be delivered to the Capital.

We reject the accusation directed against the Government of Azerbaijan and consider them to be a sign of a lack of proper understanding of domestic and foreign policy priorities of the Government of Azerbaijan, as well as political process taking place in our country and wider region.

On the situation in the run-up to the constitutional referendum, we would like to note that opposition parties freely exercised their right on freedom of peaceful assembly and thus had every chance to make their voice heard.

With regard to participation of certain journalists in 2016 HDIM, we have to stress the following. Mr. Kh. Ismayilova's imprisonment was substituted with release on probation by the decision of the competent court of Azerbaijan that reviewed her case. According to common legal practice this is followed by certain conditions set forth by court including travel ban. Therefore we are not going to comment on the decision of the court.

While challenges remain in each and every participating State, we cannot understand and accept permanent focus on Azerbaijan, especially in light of revolutionary developments happened in our region recently. This indicates a selective and biased approach to Azerbaijan.

The Government of Azerbaijan takes the issue of human rights seriously. Azerbaijan will continue its development along the path chosen by the leadership and people of our country to the benefit of us, as well as the wider region.

Briefly in response to the representative of Armenia, we will never accept any criticism from this state as long as its armed forces are present on the territories of Azerbaijan. Actions of Armenia has been recognized and defined by the international community as occupation. If Armenia is sincere, we would urge it to withdraw its forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and thus provide an environment where both Azerbaijani and Armenian communities of Nagorno Karabakh can peacefully coexist with each other.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.